

## **MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT**

**BETWEEN THE BUNCOMBE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT, ASHEVILLE  
CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT, ASHEVILLE-BUNCOMBE TECHNICAL  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE, WESTERN HIGHLANDS NETWORK, MISSION  
HOSPITALS, NATIONAL ALLIANCE ON MENTAL ILLNESS (WESTERN  
CAROLINA AFFILIATE), CITY OF ASHEVILLE, AND BUNCOMBE COUNTY**

### **REGARDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF CRISIS INTERVENTION TEAM (CIT) TRAINING IN BUNCOMBE COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA**

**WHEREAS** the role of law enforcement in mental illness crisis events has become recognized over the past 20 years; and

**WHEREAS** more recently, attention has been focused on the increasing tendency toward inadvertent criminalization of mental illness through misdemeanor arrests; and

**WHEREAS** this development has led to police-based intervention programs that emphasize jail diversion for individuals who are mentally ill (and may also have a co-occurring chemical dependency); and

**WHEREAS** recent studies have found CIT to be highly effective; and

**WHEREAS** CIT is an innovative first-responder model of police-based crisis intervention with community, health care, and advocacy partnerships; and

**WHEREAS** CIT was first developed in Memphis and has spread throughout the country; and

**WHEREAS** CIT provides law enforcement-based crisis intervention training for assisting those individuals with a mental illness, and improves the safety of patrol officers, consumers, family members, and citizens within the community; and

**WHEREAS** CIT is a program that provides the foundation necessary to promote community solutions to assist individuals with a mental illness; and

**WHEREAS** CIT reduces both stigma and the need for further involvement with the criminal justice system; and

**WHEREAS** CIT provides a forum for effective problem solving regarding the interaction between the criminal justice and mental health care system and creates the context for sustainable change;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the signatories agree to take the lead in the collaborative development of CIT in Buncombe County, North Carolina and adhere to the specific stipulations outlined in this agreement, from date of signature:

**STIPULATIONS:**

The signatories agree to work cooperatively to:

- Develop a crisis and assessment service which will provide rapid assessment and appropriate mental health community services and support for people with mental illness requiring law enforcement involvement.
- Emphasize treatment rather than incarceration of people with mental illness.
- Decrease the proportion of people with mental illness who are arrested.
- Prevent the inappropriate incarceration and/or criminalization of people with mental illness.
- Decrease officer injury rates.
- Decrease injury rates to persons experiencing a mental health crisis requiring law enforcement involvement.
- Increase law enforcement officers' knowledge about mental illness, and increase skills in their interactions with people with mental illness.
- Provide training to selected law enforcement officers.
- Improve the relationships between law enforcement agencies and mental health service providers.
- Participate in the evaluation of CIT goals and outcome measures.
- Designate a CIT coordinator in the organization.
- Designate one person in the organization to attend 2-day CIT orientation in Memphis (to be funded by Buncombe County).
- Participate in quarterly CIT stakeholder meetings.
- Designate a person or persons to participate on CIT committees, as appropriate, including curriculum committee, goals and data committee, and operations committee.
- Send the organization's CIT Coordinator to the 40-hour CIT training in Memphis (Asheville Police Department, Buncombe County Sheriff's Department, Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College only).

This Agreement shall continue in effect from the date entered into for a period of one year. Upon expiration of said period, this Agreement shall be automatically renewed for additional one year term(s) unless notice of termination is received by any party within thirty days prior to the expiration of any term.

**SIGNATORIES:****BUNCOMBE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT**

Signed by:  Date: 4-30-07

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

**ASHEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Signed by:  Date: 4/30/07

Title: Chief of Police

## ASHEVILLE-BUNCOMBE TECHNICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Signed by: K. M. Bailey Date: 04/30/07Title: President

## WESTERN HIGHLANDS NETWORK

Signed by: Michael D. Smith Date: 4/30/07Title: CEO

## MISSION HOSPITALS

Signed by: Amanda Hargrave Date: 4/30/07Title: Director, Behavioral Health

## NATIONAL ALLIANCE ON MENTAL ILLNESS (WESTERN CAROLINA AFFILIATE)

Signed by: Elizabeth A. Smith Jim Potts Date: 4/30/07Title: Co-Presidents Co-president

## CITY OF ASHEVILLE

Signed by: Jeffrey Bellamy Date: April 30, 2007Title: Mayor of Asheville

## BUNCOMBE COUNTY

Signed by: Yetta C. Ramsey Date: 4-30-07Title: Buncombe County